

Whereas Rachel Carson continued her writing career with feature columns in the Baltimore Sun on the marine life of the Chesapeake Bay until she was employed full-time in the Federal Government where she rose to become the editor-in-chief for all Fish and Wildlife Service publications;

Whereas Rachel Carson's first book, "Under the Sea-Wind", published in 1941, gave readers across the country a chance to enjoy her poetic style and her careful use of scientific information for the first time;

Whereas Rachel Carson's second book, "The Sea Around Us", earned the 1952 National Book Award and allowed her to fully devote her time to her writing career;

Whereas Rachel Carson's guide to seashore life, "The Edge of the Sea", was published in 1955 and became another best seller;

Whereas in 1962, while a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland, Rachel Carson wrote "Silent Spring", a book that detailed how synthetic chemicals accumulate in water, soils, fish, and animals, including birds;

Whereas President John F. Kennedy convened an expert panel of scientists that confirmed Rachel Carson's scientific findings, leading to the domestic ban on the sale of the chemical dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (commonly known as "DDT") in 1972, an action that many individuals credit with saving the bald eagle from extinction;

Whereas in 2015, there are more bald eagles in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed than there were in the entire lower 48 States in 1972; and

Whereas Rachel Carson passed away on April 14, 1964, at her home in Silver Spring, Maryland, leaving behind a history of tireless advocacy on behalf of the natural world, a legacy of scientific rigor coupled with poetic sensibility, and a book that helped launch the modern environmental movement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life of Rachel Carson, a scientist, writer, and pioneer of the environmental movement.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO DEBT-FREE HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED of Rhode Island, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 143

Whereas the economic competitiveness of the United States in the global economy requires a well-educated workforce;

Whereas current and future young people in the United States should have the same opportunity offered to those who went to college in previous generations, including the ability to attend State colleges and universities without taking on burdensome debt;

Whereas, in 2015, higher education is more important than ever because it is an essential step to entering and remaining in the middle class;

Whereas, because of the importance of higher education, the United States should expand the opportunity to pursue and attain higher education to more people than had that opportunity in the past;

Whereas public investment in higher education pays off, as evidenced by the fact that workers with college degrees earn more money, pay more taxes, and rely less on government services; and

Whereas student loan debt saddles the very students who most depend on a college degree to level the economic playing field with a burden that—

(1) constrains the career choices and hurts the credit rating of the students;

(2) prevents people from fully participating in the economy by purchasing goods and services; and

(3) threatens essential milestones of the American dream, including the purchase of a home or car, starting a family, and saving for retirement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports efforts—

(1) to ensure that, through a combination of efforts, all students have access to debt-free higher education, defined to mean having no debt upon graduation from all public institutions of higher education;

(2) to provide support to States so States can make increased investments in higher education that will result in lower tuition and costs for students;

(3) to increase financial aid to students to help them afford the total cost of college attendance without taking on debt;

(4) to encourage innovation by States and institutions of higher education to cut costs for students and make college more affordable by increasing efficiency and enabling speedy and less-costly degree completion; and

(5) to reduce the burden of existing student loan debt.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1123. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1124. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1125. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1126. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1127. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1128. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1123. Mr. KIRK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. —. SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL FOR MAJOR MALFEASANCE, CRIMINAL CONDUCT, AND OTHER MISCONDUCT AT ODDS WITH THE MISSION OF AN AGENCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subchapter VI—Major Malfeasance, Criminal Conduct, and Other Misconduct at Odds With the Mission of an Agency

"§ 7551. Definitions

"In this subchapter—

"(1) the term 'agency' has the meaning given that term in section 551;

"(2) the term 'employee' means an individual employed by an agency; and

"(3) the term 'suspension' means the placing of an employee, for disciplinary reasons, in a temporary status without duties and pay.

"§ 7552. Suspension and removal

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, or any other provision of law, the head of an agency may suspend without pay an employee of the agency if the head of the agency determines—

"(1) the employee has engaged in major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at odds with the mission of the agency; or

"(2) the employee failed to report major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at odds with the mission of the agency the employee knows was engaged in by an employee of the agency who is supervised by the employee.

"(b) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD.—For an employee suspended under subsection (a)—

"(1) the head of an agency shall notify the employee of the reasons for the suspension; and

"(2) not later than 30 days after the date of the notification, the employee is entitled to submit to the officer designated by the head of the agency statements or affidavits to show why the employee should be restored to duty.

"(c) REMOVAL.—Subject to subsection (d), the head of an agency may remove an employee suspended under subsection (a) if, after such investigation and review as the head of the agency considers necessary, the head of the agency determines that removal is necessary or advisable, in light of the major malfeasance, criminal conduct, or other misconduct at issue. The determination of the head of the agency under this subsection is final.

"(d) PROCESS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—An employee described in paragraph (2) is entitled, after suspension and before removal, to—

"(A) not later than 30 days after the date of the notification of the suspension, a written statement of the charges against the employee, which—

"(i) not later than 30 days after providing the written statement, may be amended; and

"(ii) shall be stated as specifically as possible;

"(B) not later than 30 days after the later of the date on which the written statement is provided or the date on which the written statement is amended, an opportunity to answer the charges and submit affidavits;

"(C) a hearing, at the request of the employee, by an agency authority duly constituted for this purpose;

"(D) a review of the matter by the head of the agency or a designee, before a decision adverse to the employee is made final; and

"(E) a written statement of the decision of the head of the agency.

"(2) EMPLOYEES COVERED.—An employee described in this paragraph is an employee who—

"(A) is suspended under subsection (a) of this section;

"(B) has a permanent or indefinite appointment;

"(C) has completed his probationary or trial period; and